

REMARKS

Claims 1-126 were pending in this application when the present Final Office Action was mailed (December 22, 2003). Of these claims, claims 16, 90-107 and 114 were withdrawn from consideration, claims 120 and 121 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten to be in independent form, claim 119 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,379,223 to Sun, et al. ("Sun") and the remaining claims were allowed. In response to the Office Action:

(A) Applicants request reconsideration of claims 16 and 114 as depending from allowable independent claims, and further request reconsideration of claims 90-104 as including the limitations of claims already indicated to be allowable. Applicants cancel claims 105-107 without prejudice to pursuing these claims in a divisional or other application.

(B) Claims 120 and 121 have been rewritten to be in independent form without narrowing the scope of these claims.

(C) Claim 119 has been cancelled without commenting on or conceding the merits of the outstanding rejection, and without prejudice to pursuing this claim in a continuation, divisional or other application.

(D) The claims indicated to be allowed have not been amended.

In view of the foregoing, the claims pending in the application comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112 and patentably define over the applied art. A Notice of Allowance is, therefore, respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions or believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (206) 359-3257.

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

EXPEDITED PROCEDURE – Art Unit 3723

Attorney Docket No. 108298515US1

Disclosure No. 00-9998

Respectfully submitted,

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